

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 207439  
ORIGIN SCS-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-05 SCA-01 PA-02 PRS-01 /015 R

DRAFTED BY CA/SCS/EAPOWERS:LSD  
APPROVED BY SCA/SCS:SADOBRENUK  
CA/SCS/NLPELLETREAU  
CA/SCS/RLRIVERA

-----121125 310014Z /72

P 302147Z YUG 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 207439

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CARR

SUBJECT: DISPOSITION OF PRISONER'S BELONGINGS

REF: COOKE-POWERS TELECON AUGUST 30

1. QUESTION OF DISPOSITION OF BELONGINGS OF PRISONERS NOT ADDRESSED AS PROBLEM CAN USUALLY BE RESOLVED LOCALLY IN VARIETY OF WAYS.
  2. IN MANY LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES PRISONERS ARE ALLOWED TO HAVE THEIR POSSESSIONS WITH THEM. DOES THAT APPLY IN PANAMA?
  3. IN OTHER COUNTRIES PRISONS OFTEN HAVE FACILITIES TO STORE POSSESSIONS OF PRISONERS. DO PANAMANIAN PRISONS OFFER SUCH FACILITIES?
  4. WHAT DO COURTS DO WITH BELONGING OF OTHER PERSONS?
  5. IF NEITHER PRISONERS NOR PRISONS CAN STORE BELONGINGS
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THEN EMBASSY WILL HAVE TO EXPLAIN TO PRISONERS THAT EMBASSY DOES NOT HAVE STORAGE FACILITIES AND ASK EACH PRISONER WHAT DISPOSITION HE WISHES MADE OF HIS BELONGINGS.

6. CONOFF MAY WISH TO DISCUSS PROBLEM WITH LOCAL COURT OFFICIALS, OUTLINING THAT IN MANY JURISDICTIONS SUCH

POSSESSIONS ARE HELD IN CONTROLLED STORAGE BY LOCAL  
AUTHORITIES UNTIL PRISONER'S RELEASE.

7. PLEASE SEND CABLE REPORT OF ABC NEWS TEAM VISIT TO  
PRISONS. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* UNCLASSIFIED

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
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